



WASHINGTON UPDATE



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Commission on roles and missions announced.

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry has announced the appointment of the Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces, as required by the FY 1994 Defense Authorization Act. The commission is to engage in a year-long study to identify changes that can be made to improve military effectiveness and eliminate needless duplication, and will report its recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and to the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

Director of the Center for Business and Government at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and former Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. John P. White was selected by Secretary Perry to head the commission. Other commission members include former Secretary of Defense Les Aspin; former Under Secretary of the Air Force Antonia Chayes; Intelus Corporation executive Jan Lodal; vice chairman of the Federal National Mortgage Association Franklin Raines; retired commander of U.S. Forces in Korea Gen. Robert RisCassi; and retired Marine Lt. Gen. Bernard Trainor.

Retired commander of U.S. Atlantic Command Adm. Leon Edney, retired Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Welch and Clinton defense transition team head Jeffrey Smith were also named to participate with the commission. Secretary Perry has asked Congress to increase the commission membership from seven to ten members.

Peacekeeping missions sap readiness. That's the conclusion of a recent Congressional Research Service study. It says that unconventional missions such as peacekeeping, the drug war, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief have forced the services to cut back on training and weapons maintenance and to scrap vital modernization programs. The report criticizes the Bottom-Up Review force and shrunken defense budgets. Since there appears little likelihood that military budgets will increase, Congress and DoD may have to reassess roles, missions and force structure and take steps to reduce peacetime operating tempos.

Deutch and Dorn confirmed. John M. Deutch was confirmed by the Senate as Deputy Defense Secretary on March 11, 1994. Before his appointment as the Pentagon's number two civilian official, Deutch served as Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology.

Assistant Secretary of Defense Edwin Dorn was confirmed by the Senate to fill the new position of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Clinton, Perry vow "no further cuts." President Clinton's State of the Union promise to protect defense from further cuts was reiterated by Defense Secretary William Perry in congressional testimony in defense of the FY95 DoD budget. Perry told the Senate Armed Services Committee: "I would certainly resist, and resist firmly, attempts from both within Congress and the administration to make further cuts in this budget."

Interim readiness report released. DoD's Readiness Task Force, chaired by retired Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward C. Meyer, has presented its interim findings and recommendations. The task force focused on measurements of readiness problems. The interim report included recommendations concerning joint force readiness, projecting future readiness, organizing for readiness and funding contingency operations. Major recommendations were made in the first of these areas, and DoD has already taken steps to bolster department-wide efforts to improve joint force readiness. More on this when the final report is released in late May.

Digitized task force debuts at NTC. For two weeks in April, an Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE) in battlefield synchronization will be conducted at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. Task Force 1-70, 194th Separate Armored Brigade, Fort Knox, KY, will participate in the AWE during its NTC rotation with the 3d Brigade, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Benning, GA. The rotation will highlight how digital technology can enhance lethality, operating tempo and survivability across the combined arms team in a tactically competitive training environment.

SecArmy airs mission concerns. In his first overseas trip since becoming Army Secretary, Togo D. West, Jr. shared with reporters at Heidelberg, Germany his concerns about the future impact of reduced forces and increased deployments. West said the Army of 1997 could fight two nearly simultaneous wars, but he raised questions about how unexpected contingencies, such as peacekeeping missions, might impact Army readiness for bigger roles. The secretary indicated both the Army and Congress will be watching closely to see if the 65,000-soldier FY97 endstrength in Europe can provide the resources to carry out contingency operations and still maintain readiness to perform their primary missions.

Planned longer-range ATACMS reported. The 100-kilometer range of the Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) will double and its accuracy will be increased as a result of an \$800 million program approved by a top Army acquisition panel. A 75 percent warhead reduction in the ATACMS payload—from 950 bomblets to 250 bomblets—makes the increased range possible, but will have no effect on the lethality of the missile.

Defense News reports that work is being done to develop top-level doctrine for the coordinated use of aircraft and missiles while the roles and missions debate continues over which service—the Army or the Air Force—should control long-range attack by the ATACMS. The missile's increased range, with which the Army is able to destroy more targets without the use of Air Force bombers, has resulted in an even sharper discussion over long-range attack control.

Combined theater/national missile defense. *Aerospace Daily* reports Army missile defense officials have proposed a restructuring plan that would consolidate the National Missile Defense (NMD) and Theater Missile Defense (TMD) divisions of the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization into a single technical support directorate. According to Missile Defense Program Executive Officer Brig. Gen. Richard Black, the new organization would reflect the findings of the Bottom-Up Review and current budget constraints.

The restructuring plan, which is awaiting approval by Army leadership, also proposes combining TMD Ground-Based Radar and Theater High-Altitude Area Defense project offices, as well as merging the Patriot and Extended Range Interceptor project offices.

U.S., Germany may cooperate on Corps SAM. Although no agreement between the two countries has been signed, Army sources report that Theater Missile Defense officials have indications that Germany is still very much interested in a cooperative effort on the Corps Surface-to-Air Missile program (Corps SAM). According to *Inside the Army*, Corps SAM officials are considering how best to reflect the possibility for German cooperation in draft Requests for Proposal even though teaming with German industry would not significantly change Corps SAM requirements.

A decision is anticipated in early summer, with a memorandum of agreement between the U.S. and Germany to be negotiated some time this year.

Peacekeeping policy revised. New guidelines for committing U.S. troops to international crises have been sent to Congress by the Clinton administration. In addition to reducing the share of U.S. contributions to international peacekeeping missions from over 30 percent to 25 percent, the policy outlines seven major criteria for U.S. participation in UN missions:

- Participation should advance U.S. interests;
- The risks must be acceptable;
- Sufficient funding, resources and personnel must be available to ensure the mission's success;
- U.S. involvement must be necessary for the mission to succeed;
- An end to the operation can be envisioned;
- There is public and congressional support;
- Command and control responsibilities are clear and acceptable.

Also, other nations will have to contribute their fair share and American troops will almost certainly remain under U.S. command in all but the simplest operations.

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Somalia service tax break possible. Legislation cosponsored by Reps. Ike Skelton (D-MO) and Mel Reynolds (D-IL) would give tax breaks to troops who served in Somalia after December 3, 1992, the date Operation Restore Hope began. The bill, now pending before the House Ways and Means Committee, calls for military compensation for enlisted service members and warrant officers to be tax-free, while officers would pay taxes on any monthly military pay above \$500. Two years' tax obligations would be forgiven for members who died in Somalia or as a result of service in the area.

Clinton signs \$25K civilian buyout bill. On March 30, President Clinton signed the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994, which authorizes most federal agencies to offer civilian employees cash incentives of up to \$25,000 to resign or retire early. The buyouts, to be offered through March 31, 1995, are expected to minimize the need for reductions in force as the government seeks to reduce the civilian workforce by more than 272,000 jobs by 1999. Each agency and department will make its own determination about when -- or if-- it will exercise the buyout authority.

Two heavy brigades to Fort Lewis. Fort Lewis, WA will soon become the home of two heavy brigades to be moved from Germany. The 3d Brigade of the 1st Armored Division will begin moving to Fort Lewis from Mannheim, Germany, in mid-April. A second brigade and support units will be moved in by 1999.

The two brigades are expected to form the base of an armored division designated for Pacific Rim deployments. Transfer of the two brigades will expand the military population at Fort Lewis to more than 25,000 troops.

850+ officers face forced retirement. As the Army moves toward a drawdown goal of reducing by 2,000 the number of line officers on active duty by the end of FY94, 857 retirement-eligible colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors must leave active duty by July 1. The drawdown that began in 1991 will reduce line officer authorizations by 16,000 and will stabilize at 51,000 in 1995. The officers were selected for early retirement as a result of Selective Early Retirement Boards (SERBs) that met in October and November and the Selective Continuation Review Board that met in November.

The uphill fight for COLA equity. Companion bills in the House and Senate seek to correct an inequity in cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees passed last year. S.1805, sponsored by Sen. John Warner (R-VA), and its companion in the House, H.R.3023, sponsored by Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA), would reduce the nine-month COLA delay for military retirees for FY95 through FY98 to three months. That would make the delays the same for military and federal civilian retirees.

Budget director Leon Panetta has promised to work with legislators to correct the inequity, but cautions that the \$350 million in savings that would be lost the first year the delay is moved forward would have to be made up elsewhere.

AUSA queries White House on health reform. In a meeting with White House staffers, AUSA and other members of the Military Coalition expressed concern over provisions in President Clinton's Health Security Act which would adversely affect military beneficiaries.

The military health care portion of the act, the Military Health Plan (MHP) allows the Department of Defense to develop and manage its own health plan for its 8.5 million beneficiaries. However, problem areas include the fact that retirees who prefer a private insurance or "fee-for-service" option would lose coverage under CHAMPUS.

AUSA and the coalition emphasized to White House staffers the need to protect the key provisions of the MHP, including reasonable choice of health care services and providers, assured access through enrollment, and affordable beneficiary cost-sharing for all DoD beneficiaries regardless of age.

DoD: smoke free. The Department of Defense, the nation's largest employer with nearly three million uniformed personnel and civilian employees, will become smoke free as the result of a new workplace policy that bans smoking of tobacco products in all DoD work facilities worldwide. The policy establishes three general principles: to ban smoking of tobacco products in all DoD workplaces at both domestic and overseas facilities; to designate, when possible, outdoor smoking areas which are reasonably accessible to workers and provide a measure of protection from the elements; and to provide smoking cessation programs for all personnel.

Retirees face health care choices. Depending on what Congress does to President Clinton's proposed Health Security Act (HSA), military retirees and their families could see better access to health care in the future. Those under age 65 will have a choice of enrolling in the Military Health Plan or a civilian health plan. The former entails an enrollment fee of about \$50 per person (maximum \$100 per family) and a \$15 per person, per visit fee to nonmilitary facilities. Under civilian plans DoD would pay 80 percent of the average cost of the plans in the beneficiary's area.

People over age 65 who are eligible for Medicare could enroll in the Military Health Plan and be assured of care from military facilities or civilian contract providers with Medicare paying the costs. The other option for this group is to continue to obtain care through normal Medicare channels. **AUSA stands in support of the principle of Medicare reimbursing the cost of treatment in military facilities for Medicare-eligibles.**

Guard and Reserve perform healing missions.

Nearly 5,000 members of the Army Reserve and National Guard are meeting annual training requirements by participating in Operation Fuertes Caminos ("strong roads"), a six-month operation in rural Guatemalan villages. Working jointly with local military, health and education officials, U.S. medical personnel provide basic medical and dental care and basic health information. Engineering units build and expand schools, construct bridges and clinics, dig wells, and repair highways.

Meanwhile, back home, National Guard troops opened a field hospital in a run-down neighborhood in Denver, CO, the first such effort for U.S. civilians outside a disaster area. The field hospital, which remained in operation for two weeks in tents set up in a schoolyard, provided basic out-patient services and dental and eye care for 200 to 300 needy patients per day.

ARMY magazine essay contest announced.

The essays, which will be judged by a board of national security and landpower experts, must address important issues concerning the U.S. Army in the 21st century. Three essays will be selected for cash prizes and publication in **ARMY**. Anyone (except employees of AUSA) is eligible to enter the contest, which ends May 31, 1994. Interested individuals should call 1-800-336-4570, extension 362, for more information.

"America's Army" explores the workings of the Army Career and Alumni Program and the benefits it brings to soldiers, Army civilians and their families, as well as to employers and to the nation. Host Ronald Wolfe, filling in for Peter Hackes, welcomes Pauline Botelho, director of the Army Career and Alumni Program; Bill Matheson, head of capacity development for Schneider National Inc., a Wisconsin-based transport company; and P. J. Budahn, *Army Times* "Careers" columnist and author of two books on transition programs and veterans' benefits.

"America's Army: Ready, Willing and Trained to Work" will air in the Washington metropolitan area on Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. on WNVN-53.

AUSA's "America's Army" series is available via satellite to public TV stations across the country. Check local listings for broadcast schedules outside the Washington area. Tapes of the programs are also available through AUSA. For more information, call 1-800-336-4570, extension 311.

ILW publications:

"Special Operations Forces: A Primer" (Background Brief No. 62) provides an overview of the special operations command and the Army component.

"Depot Maintenance" (Background Brief No. 61) addresses the issue of reducing the number of service-operated depots and plants and limiting maintenance workload at Army facilities.

"U.S. Army Retirees — Valuable Assets" (Landpower Essay No. 94-3) by SGM George S. Kulas, USA Ret., discusses the possibility of giving the Army the flexibility to utilize its former retired soldiers.

"Combined Army National Guard OCS And Army ROTC Advanced Camp" (Landpower Essay No. 94-2) by LTC Austin E. Miller, AUS Ret., discusses the author's observations of consolidated training programs conducted at Fort Lewis, Washington.

To obtain ILW publications, write to AUSA's Institute of Land Warfare, 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201, or call 1-800-336-4570, extension 308.